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Amended claims

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1. A method for monitoring audio/video connections hereinafter called AV connections which have been set up in a network of distributed stations (10, 20, 30, 40) which are networked with one another via wire-free or wire bus connections (15), **characterized in that** a station (STB) monitored to determine whether the station (VCR) which is AV connected to it has sent a logging-off message and, if yes, in that this station (STB) autonomously ends the setting up of the AV connection with the station (VCR) which is logged off.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a station (STB) which is AV connected to another station (VCR) sends a signaling request (54) to the stations in the network in the situation where the AV connection has remained unused for a first specific time, and in that, in the situation where the signaling request remains unanswered by the station (VCR) which is AV connected to the requesting station (STB), the requesting station (STB) autonomously internally ends the setting up of the AV connection.
3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that, when a new connection request arrives, a station (STB) from which an AV connection to another station (VCR) has already been set up, sends a signaling request to the stations in the network and in that, in the situation where the signaling request remains unanswered by the station (VCR) which is AV connected to the requesting station (STB), the requesting station (STB) autonomously internally ends the setting up of the AV connection.
4. The method as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that, in the situation in which it is found that the other station (VCR) on the AV connection which has

been set up is still registered in the network, the logical connection has remained unused for a second specific time, the station (STB) which is carrying out the check autonomously internally ends the setting up of the existing AV connection.

5 5. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that audio and/or video data is transmitted via the AV connection.

10 6. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the data transmissions in the network are carried out in accordance with the rules of the UPnP Standard.

15 7. A network station (STB) for a network of distributed stations (10, 20, 30, 40) which are networked with one another via wire-free or wire bus connections (15), having means for setting up an audio/video connection hereinafter called AV connection to another station (VCR), **characterized in that** the network station (STB) has monitoring means (50-58) which it uses to monitor whether the station (VCR) which is AV connected to it has sent a logging-off message, and furthermore having connection ending means (56) for autonomously ending the AV connection which has been set up when the monitoring means (50-58) find that the logging-off message has been sent from the station (VCR) which is AV connected to it.

20 25 30 35 8. The network station as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the monitoring means (50-58) are also designed to monitor whether the AV connection which has been set up has remained unused for a first specific time and, if yes, to send a signaling request to the stations in the network, and is also designed such that it autonomously internally ends the setting up of the existing AV connection if the signaling request remains unanswered by the

station (VCR) which is AV connected to the requesting station.

- 5 9. The network station (STB) as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the monitoring means (50-58) is designed to send a signaling request to the network stations when a new connection request for a further station has arrived and it has been found that the AV connection which has been set up has been unused for
- 10 that time, with autonomous ending of the setting up of the existing AV connection when the signaling request remains unanswered by the station (VCR) which is AV connected to the requesting station (STB).
- 15 10. The network station as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the monitoring means (50 to 58) are also designed such that they end the setting up of the existing AV connection autonomously when it is found that the other station (VCR) in the AV
- 20 connection which has been set up is admittedly still registered in the network, but that the AV connection has remained unused for a second specific time.
- 25 11. The network station as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the network station is designed for data transmissions in accordance with the UPnP Standard.

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